



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Safety Equipment and Pollution Prevention Equipment Carried in Excess of Statutory Requirements

Guidance to Shipowners and Shipmasters, Owners and Skippers of Fishing Vessels

This Note supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1611

Summary

This Note advises all Shipowners and Shipmasters, Owners and Skippers of Fishing Vessels of their obligations in respect of proper maintenance of equipment in excess of statutory requirement.

1. Cases have come to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's notice of ships carrying safety equipment in excess of statutory requirements and such equipment not being properly maintained. If such equipment is on board it might come to be relied upon in any emergency and it must, therefore, be maintained in the same proper condition as statutory equipment. A similar philosophy applies to pollution prevention equipment in excess of statutory requirements.

2. Owners, masters and skippers are, therefore, reminded that they are responsible not only for maintaining statutory required safety equipment and pollution prevention equipment but also for ensuring that equipment carried on board which is in excess of statutory requirements is safe, suitable for its intended purpose, and maintained in good condition, and in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, and if applicable complying with any conditions imposed by an approval certificate of non-statutory equipment which is allowed to be carried on the vessel.

3. Guidelines on this subject given by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in their report MSC XLIII/18 Annex 3 Paragraph 23 are reproduced in the following paragraph and should be adhered to at all times.

"Equipment on board which is expected to be relied on in situations affecting safety or pollution prevention must be in operating condition. If such equipment is inoperative and is in excess of the equipment required by an appropriate Convention and/or the Flag State it should either be repaired, removed or if removal is not practicable, clearly marked as inoperative and secured."

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